

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

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FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3599

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, SG, IR

SUBJ: CAYAR PROJECT

REF: A 75-DAKAR 6722, B STATE 10050

1. EMBASSY REGRETS DELAY IN ANSWERING REF B. ALL MAJOR IRASENCO OFFICIALS CURRENTLY IN TEHRAN, WITH NO FIRM RETURN DATE. ADVISE KINCAID POSTPONE TRIP TO DAKAR UNTIL BEGINNING OF FEBRUARY.

2. AS MENTIONED REF A, AT LEAST TWO GROUPS ARE COMPETING WITH PARSONS-JURDEN JACOBS (PJ) FOR CONTRACT TO DEVELOP TOBENE MINE: KRUPP, AND FRENCH CONSORTIUM WHICH HAS BEEN MINING PHOSPHATE IN SENEGAL SINCE 1957. PJ PROPOSAL WAS WELL RECEIVED BY IRASENCO AND IT IS CONCEDED THAT PJ HAS BEST TECHNOLOGY, BUT FINAL DECISION WILL TURN ON POLITICAL AS WELL AS TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS. WE ARE NOT AWARE OF CANADIAN OFFER FOR PHOSPHATES, ALTHOUGH CANADA IS INTERESTED IN POWER PLANT, TOWN AND POSSIBLY PORT. IF CANADA HAS MADE OFFER FOR PHOSPHATE MINES, IT WILL BE BASED ON HIGHLY CONCESSIONAL FINANCING.

3. DECISION-MAKING IN IRASENCO IS DIVIDED AMONG MANY PEOPLE, NONE OF WHOM IS CONSISTENTLY DOMINANT. WHILE THERE HAVE BEEN

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MANY PERSONAL RIVALRIES AND DISAGREEMENTS, WE SEE NO SIGN OF

FUNDAMENTAL IRANIAN/SENEGALESE DISAGREEMENT. SENEGALESE MINISTER OF FINANCE BABACAR BA RETURNED FROM TEHRAN 22 FEBRUARY AND ANNOUNCED THAT FINANCING FOR PROJECT WILL BE DISCUSSED DURING FEBRUARY MEETING OF IRANIAN-SENEGALESE COMMISSION. PRINCESS ASHRAF PAHLAVI, SISTER OF SHAH, COMPLETED FIVE-DAY VISIT TO SENEGAL JAN 13 MARKED BY DINNERS IN HER HONOR BY BOTH PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER, SERIES OF PROMINANTLY PUBLICIZED MEETINGS ON EDUCATION AND WOMEN'S AFFAIRS, AND "PRESENTATION" OF CAYAR PROJECT MADE TO PRINCESS BY GOS MINISTER OF PLANNING AND COOPERATION IN PRESENCE OF PRIME MINISTER AND OTHER HIGH OFFICIALS. IT HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED THAT EMPRESS FARA DIBA WILL COME TO SENEGAL AT END OF FEBRUARY TO DEDICATE NEW VILLAGE ASSOCIATED WITH CAYAR PROJECT (AND TO BE CHRISTENED "KEUR FARAH PAHLAVI"). EMBASSY BELIEVES IRANIAN FINANCIAL "DIFFICULTIES" HAVE NOT YET AFFECTED PROJECT WHICH HAS GEOPOLITICAL AS WELL AS ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE. SENEGAL'S "FRUITFUL AND WIDE RANGING COOPERATION" WITH IRAN WAS ONLY CASE (ASIDE FROM GAMBIA) WHERE DESIRABILITY OF COOPERATION WITH SPECIFIC COUNTRY WAS EXPLICITLY SINGLED OUT IN RECENT SPEECH BY PRIME MINISTER REVIEWING GOS FOREIGN POLICY (DAKAR A-140).

4. UPON RETURN IRASENCO OFFICIALS FROM TEHRAN, WE WILL SEND UPDATED REPORT.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPT PLEASE PASS CONTENTS PARA 1 TO IRASENCO ASAP SINCE KINCAID REPORTEDLY PLANS VISIT DAKAR JAN 24.

AGGREY

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